

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 123857 TOSEC 130050

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /024 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-EESVENDSEN:DFP

APPROVED BY AF-WESCHAUFEL

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

S: MR. AHERNE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123857 TOSEC 130050

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, (STEVENS, PRESIDENT SIAKA P.)

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: APPOINTMENT REQUEST - PRESIDENT
SIAKA P. STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE (S/SNO.7610160)
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AF SCHAUFEL

1. PRESIDENT STEVENS OF SIERRA LEONE HAS DECIDED ON SHORT
NOTICE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES, AND NOW PLANS TO BE
HERE ON MAY 23-MAY 30. HE HAS EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR
SAMUELS IN FREETOWN HIS INTEREST IN MEETING WITH YOU ON
THIS TRIP. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE A PERSONAL PLEA
FOR INCREASED U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SIERRA LEONE AT
A TIME OF INCREASING FINANCIAL DIFFICILTIES.

2. PRESIDENT STEVENS' FOREIGN POLICY HAS SHOWN AN INCREAS-
ING TENDENCY TO COINCIDE WITH POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE
UNITED STATES IN THE PAST YEAR. STEVENS HAS RECENTLY
INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE THIS TREND IN RETURN
FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE. SIERRA LEONE ALSO HAS SHOWN WILLING-
NESS TO CONSIDER REESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.
THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT U.S. INTEREST IN SIERRA LEONE, A
DOLS 40-50 MILLION INVESTMENT BY BETHLEHEM STEEL IN A
RUTILE (TITANIUM OXIDE) MINE, IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN OPERA-
TIONS IN 1978.

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3. THE STEVENS' VISIT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FOLLOW-UP ON YOUR INITIATIVES IN AFRICA. STEVENS IS A MODERATE AFRICAN LEADER WHO HAS A NATURAL PROCLIVITY TO FAVOR THE WEST BUT HE NOW REQUIRES SOME ENCOURAGEMENT. A BRIEF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT STEVENS COULD SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND COULD LEAD TO SOME SIERRA LEONEAN SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORA. THE DEPARTMENT IS RECOMMENDING TO THE WHITE HOUSE THAT PRESIDENT FORD ALSO RECEIVE STEVENS BRIEFLY.

4. RECOMMENDATION: THAT YOU AGREE TO A BRIEF CALL BY PRESIDENT STEVENS ON FRIDAY, MAY 28, OR SATURDAY MAY 29.

APPROVE: DISAPPROVE:

DATE: TIME:

5. DRAFTED: AF/W-EESVENDSEN:DFF

APPROVED BY: AF: WESCHAUFLE

CLEARANCES: S/S-O-JHOGANSON; S-PBARBIAN. ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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